



# Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue #1 Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

30 April 2021

## Pest Patrol Alerts

The information contained herein each issue is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message often for at least as long as the newsletter runs. After a new message is posted, a text message is sent to alert users that I have recorded a new update. Users can subscribe for text message alerts for my updates in two easy steps. Step one: register by texting **pestpat7** to 97063. Step two: reply to the confirmation text you receive by texting the letter "y" to complete your registration. Pest Patrol Alerts are sponsored by Syngenta.

## Updates on Twitter

When noteworthy events happen in the field, I will be sending them out quickly via Twitter. If you want to follow those quick updates, follow me at [@bugdocisin](https://twitter.com/bugdocisin) on Twitter.



## News from Around the State

We picked up early signs of insect activity here at the Edisto REC last week by sweeping some crimson clover. In 100 sweeps, we found 112 tarnished plant bug adults, 37 grasshoppers, 15 kudzu bug adults, 12 threecornered alfalfa hoppers, 3 green cloverworms, 3 southern green stink bug nymphs, 3 miscellaneous species of stink bug adults (*Euschistus* spp.), 1 southern green stink bug (a female), 1 rice stink bug, 1 redbanded stink bug, a ton of natural enemies (spiders, bigeyed bugs, ants, lady beetles, spined soldier bugs, etc.), and many of what I think were pea weevils (adults and immatures).

**Charles Davis**, county agent in Calhoun County, reported "Yes, it has begun. Cotton and peanut going in the ground here. I should have some that is up that was planted a week ago...for now, most of it is still in the bag." **Jay Crouch**, county agent in Newberry, reported "all quiet here...little cotton planted my way so far." **Chris Talley**, county agent in Oconee County, reported "no news from upstate area, beans just now (small amount) going in the ground. Cotton (what little we have) will start in another week or so."

**Jonathan Croft**, county agent in Orangeburg County, reported "I don't have any cotton or soybeans emerged yet. I know growers are planting some of both this week while we have moisture from rain over last weekend. I was out today on some farm visits and we will be needing another rain very soon. I was in a multi-species, winter-grazing field yesterday and noticed green stink bugs in it. I have also seen a few kudzu bugs around as well."

## Scouting Workshops and Field Days

As we transition out of this pandemic and move back to in-person meetings, we are planning on having several in-field, in-person workshops devoted to scouting for insect issues in cotton and soybeans. These scouting workshops are tentatively being scheduled for late July 2021. Hopefully, by then, we are back to

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some sort of normal operations for meetings and trainings. We will continue to update on progress in planning for those workshops. If we have to, we can offer some sort of virtual scouting workshop, but we all know that in-person opportunities work best for actually learning in the field. Also, we are planning to have an in-person field day here at the Edisto REC on 2 September 2021, with at least row crops (cotton, soybeans, peanuts, corn, grain sorghum, etc.) covered. Stay tuned for details on those events.

## Cotton Situation

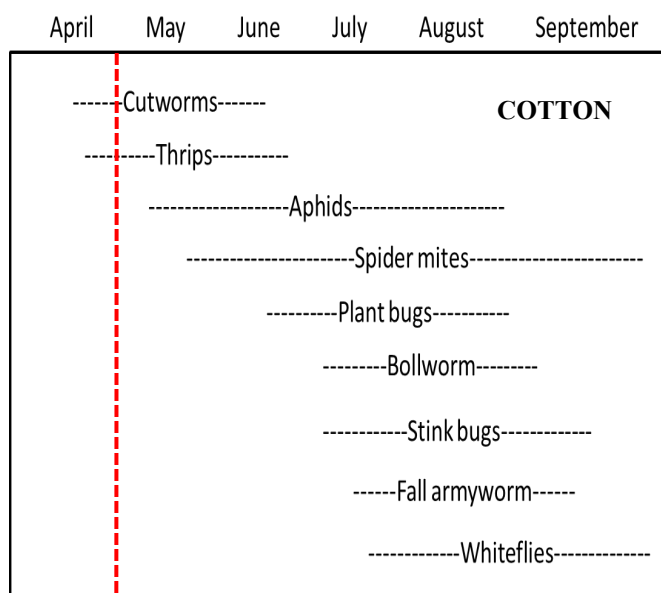
As of 25 April 2021, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 7% of the crop has been planted, compared with 1% at this time last week, 3% at this time last year, and 5% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

## Cotton Insects

Very little cotton is planted and emerged, so issues with insects have yet to surface. The usual suspects will be thrips, cutworms, and grasshoppers, at least initially. The predictive tool for estimating risk of thrips by planting date shows that we are in the window for the worst time to plant in the southern portion of the Coastal Plain in SC, as the risk for injury after the crop emerges is very high for planting dates right now. In this southern region of SC, planting during mid- or late June carries a low risk for injury from thrips (chart on next page for Blackville). In the middle portion of the Coastal Plain, risk is very similar to the lower part of the state, with mid-to-late May looking much better for planting (chart on next page for Cameron). In the Pee Dee Region of the Coastal Plain in SC, risk for thrips injury is showing a heightened risk for thrips for most of May (chart on next page for Darlington). These charts were all created by using the tool at this link: <https://products.climate.ncsu.edu/ag/cottontip/>

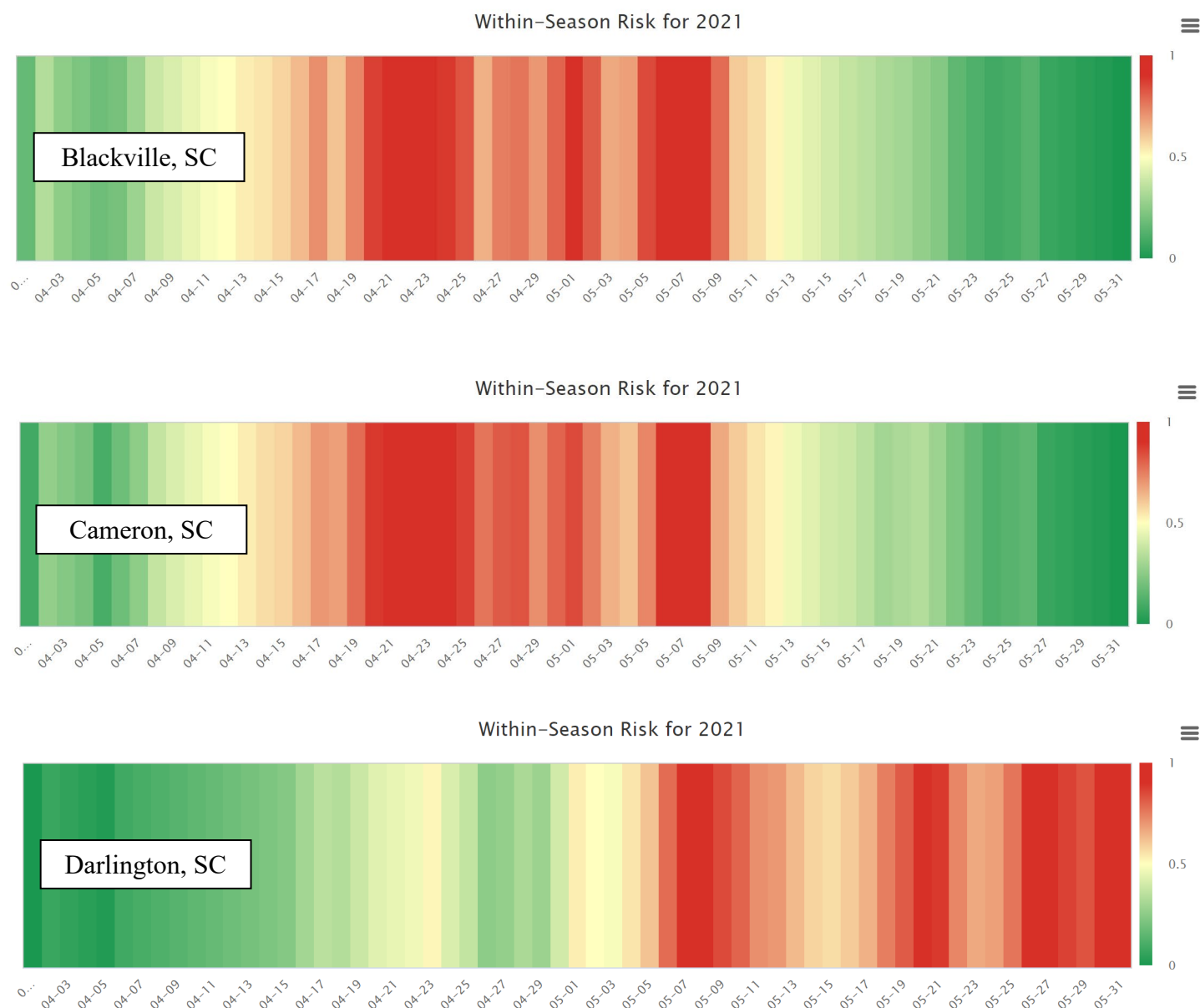
I encourage you to take a look at this tool and play around with planting dates for your fields. The model takes a minute to run, but the information you get can be useful. Remember, though, this is just a tool with predictions based on many factors. It is not necessarily 100% correct all of the time, but it is usually **much** better than the weather forecasting we get! ☺

At-plant, chemical control options for thrips include several delivery strategies for insecticides, such as seed treatments, in-furrow liquid sprays, and in-furrow granular products. After crop emergence, we have more limited options for foliar sprays of insecticides. Charts below summarize what we observed in 2020 regarding at-plant and foliar sprays for thrips in cotton. In general, seed treatments were not as effective as other in-furrow applications. Radiant and the high rate of Orthene were the best foliar treatments.





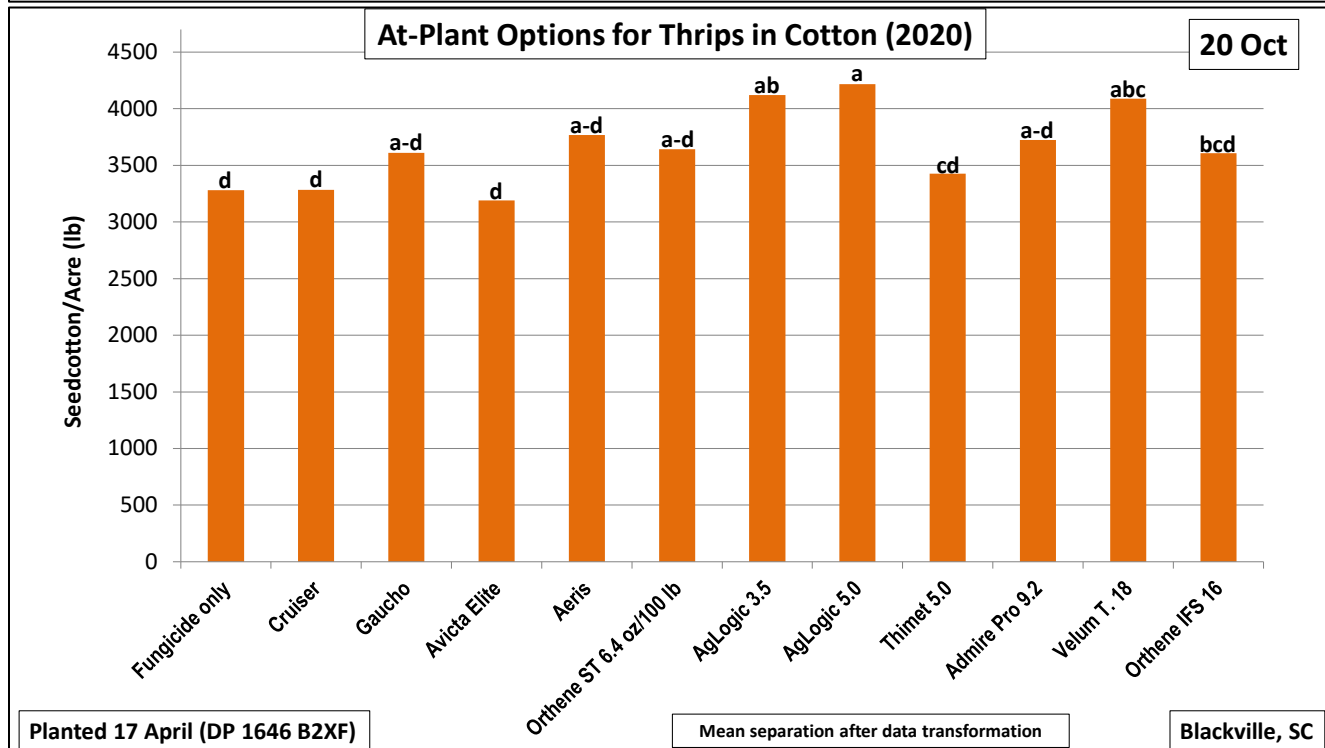
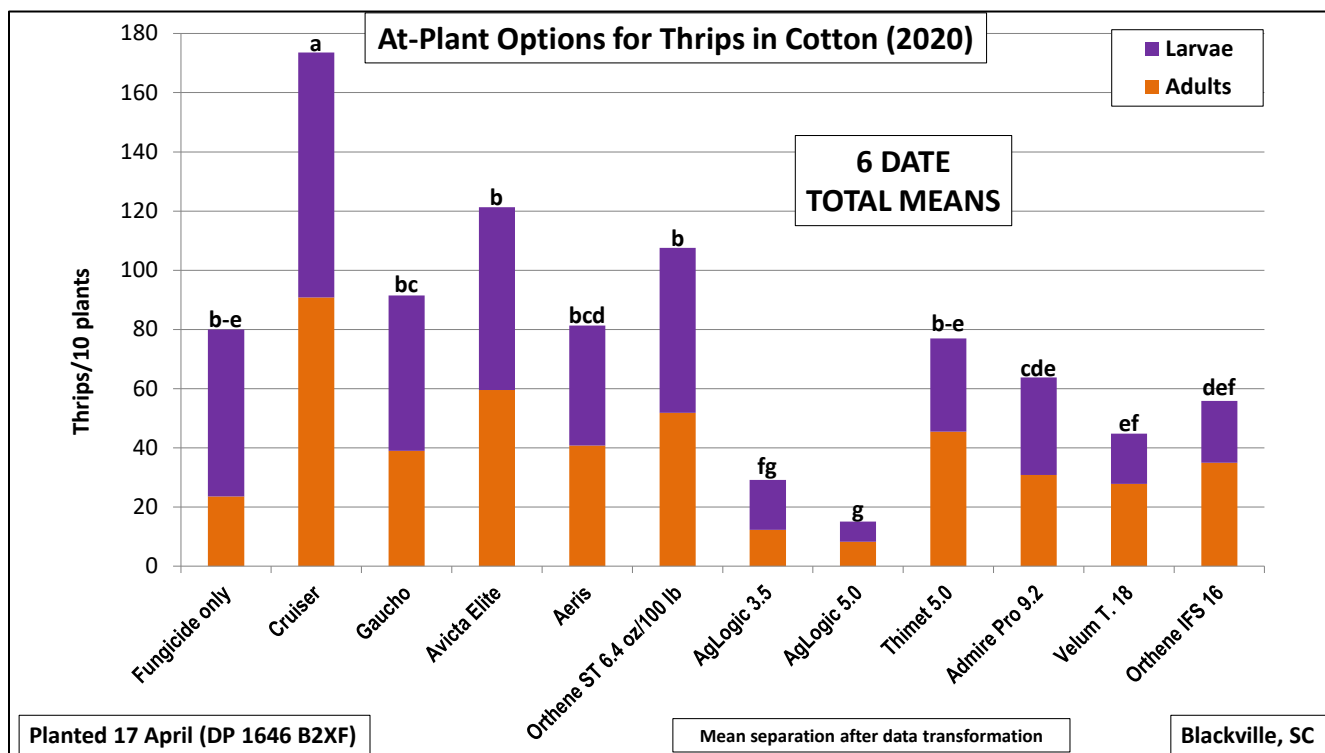
Here are some charts showing risk for tobacco thrips on seedling cotton by region in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina. This is the risk for planting on the dates showing...not when thrips will be an issue. Thrips will be an issue after this planting window of risk potential.



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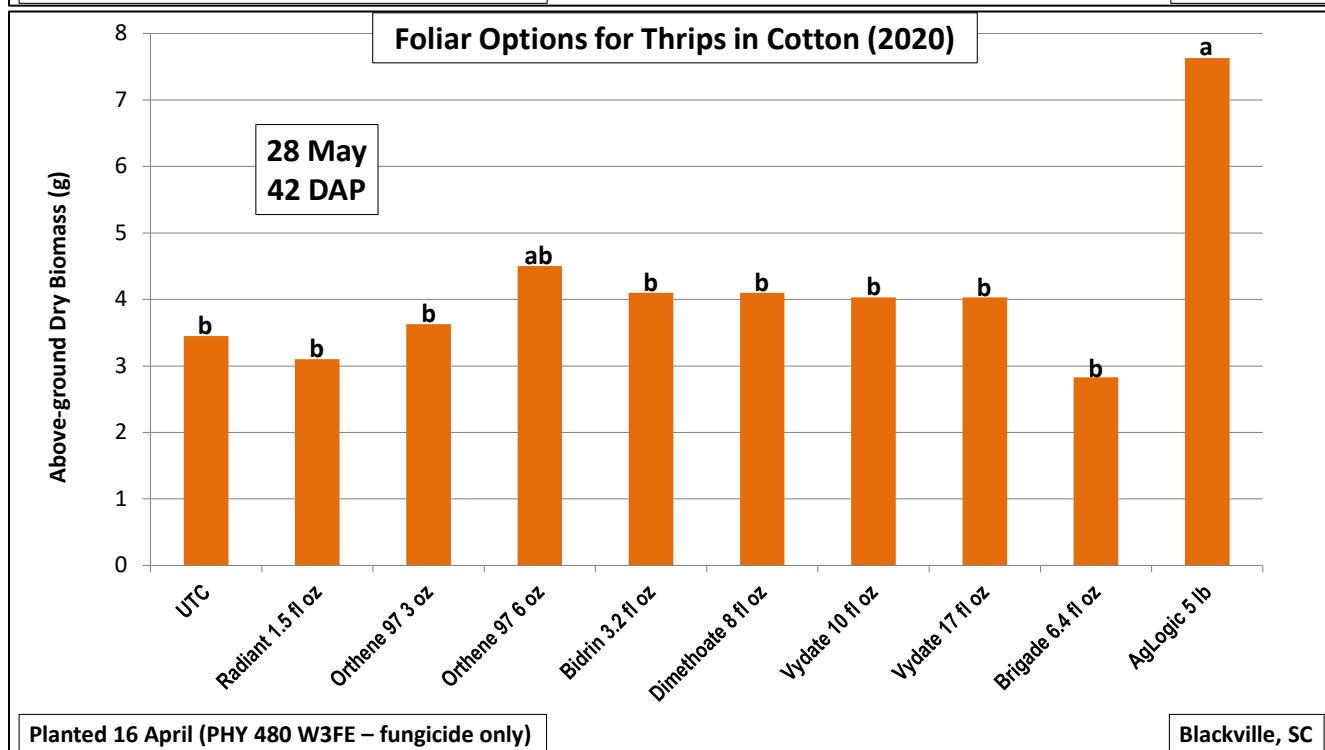
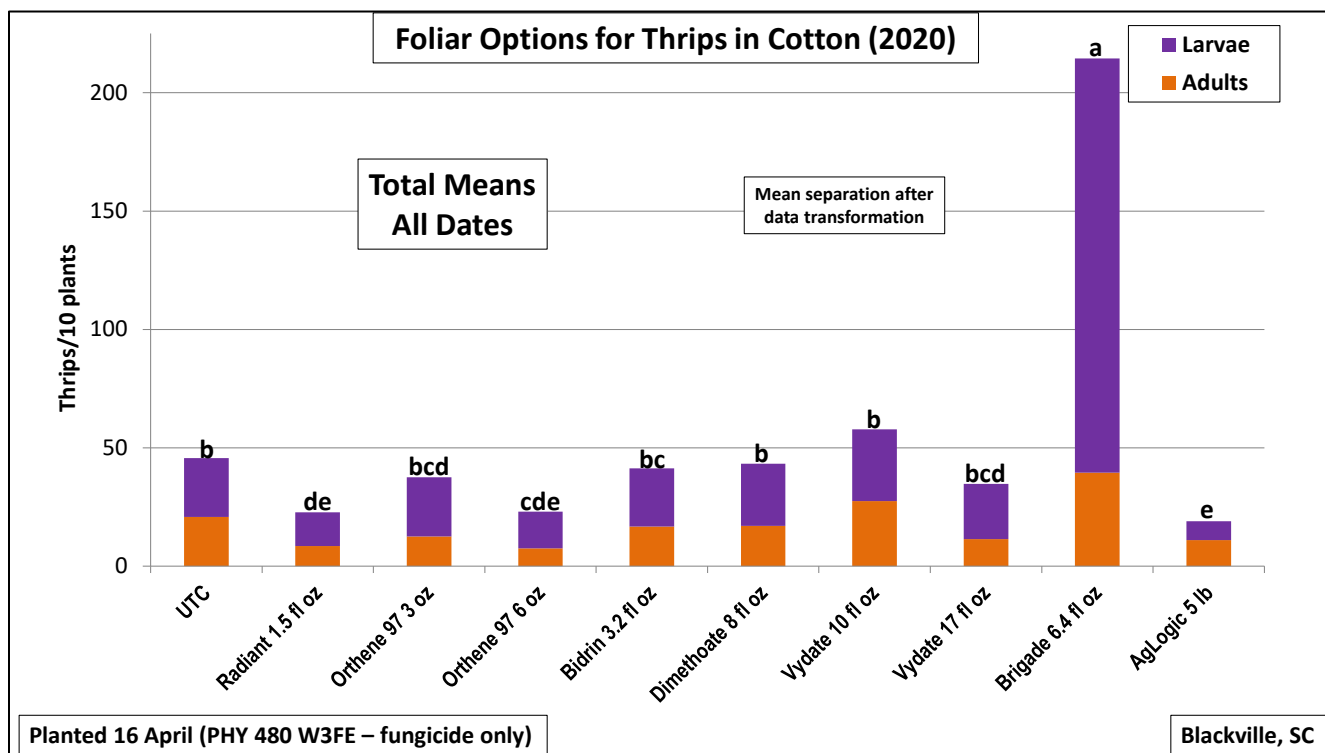
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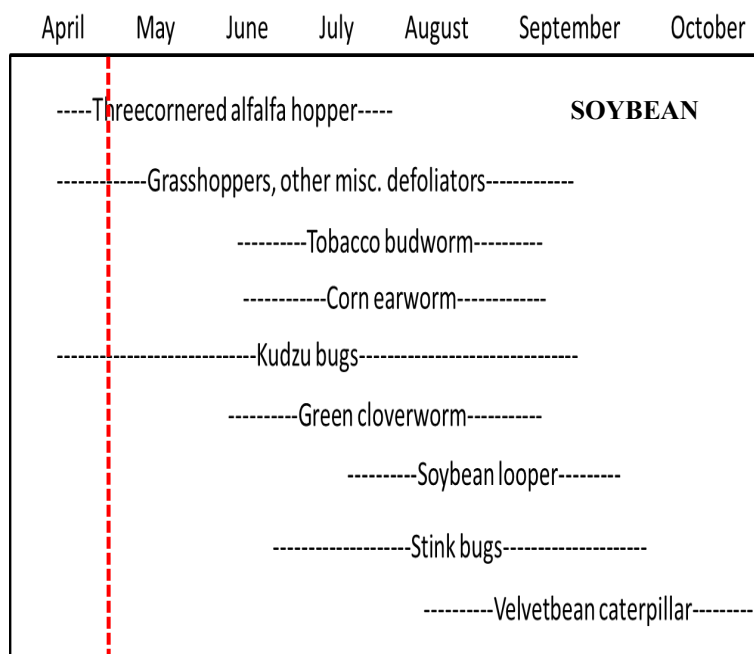
We will have our first data from captures of bollworm moths in pheromone traps next week. Only a few moths have been caught so far this week. Our work last season in the lower portion of the Coastal Plain in SC investigating planting date effects on bollworm indicated that mid-May was the best date for producing cotton and avoiding bollworm injury when compared with planting in mid-April and mid-June. The mid-June planting date was infested more by bollworm and suffered more yield loss than the earlier planting dates. We will talk more about bollworm in the coming weeks as we approach flowering, but I wanted to mention the effects of planting date on bollworm, as we are planting now or very soon. Know the risks!

## **Soybean Situation**

As of 25 April 2021, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 2% of the crop has been planted, compared with (NA)% the previous week, 0% at this time last year, and 1% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

## **Soybean Insects**

There are not many soybeans planted yet, so there is little to say about insects. However, an issue that comes up each year after planting is what happens with late burndowns and problems with insects. We need to ensure we have plenty of time between burndown herbicide applications and planting. You need enough time for the sprayed vegetation to kill the plants and enough time for any insects colonizing the cover to move out. We often see issues with crops emerging into residue that is still dying and still supporting insects that can move on over to the crop. So, make sure you have enough time in between burndown and planting, especially for soybeans. We see issues with grasshoppers way too early when this happens, and we can see it much later when threecornered alfalfa hoppers injury young plants, and weakened stems result in lodged plants before harvest. Other species can also become important on seedlings when burndowns are too close to planting. As I mentioned earlier, we saw many different species in sweeps last week on crimson clover...even some early migrating GCW. This year might be a big one for insects in soybeans...we will see.



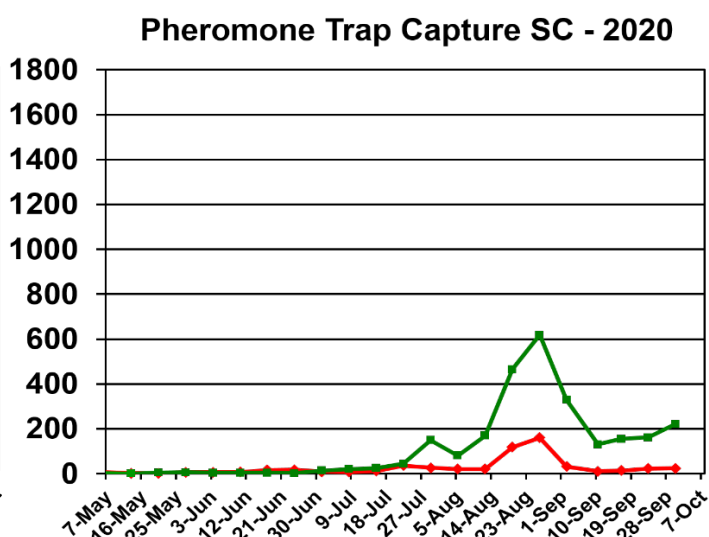
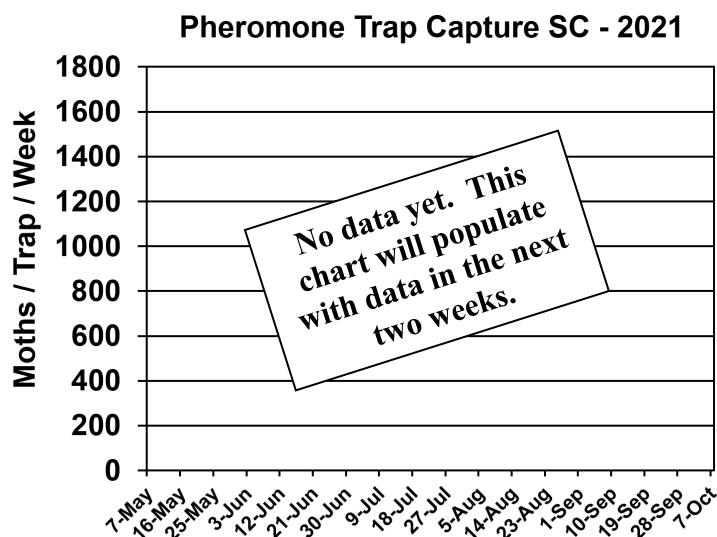




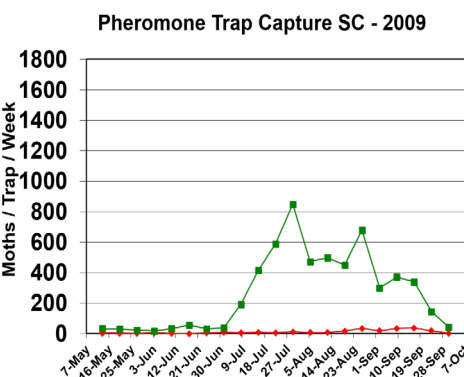
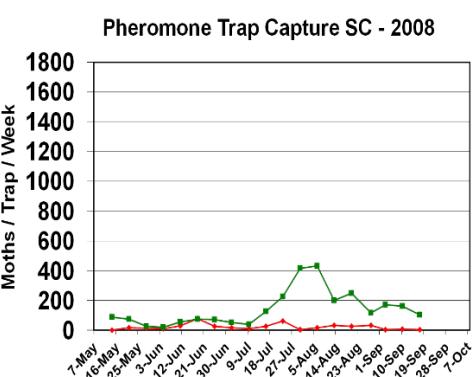
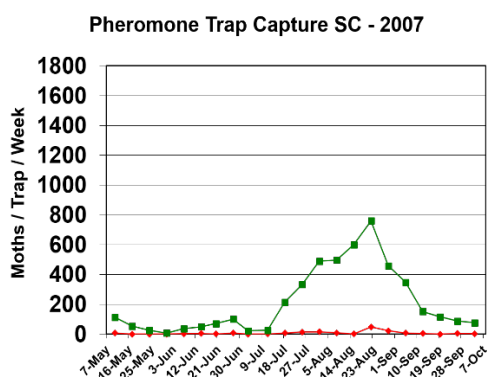
### Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2007-2020 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Trap data from 2007-2019 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:



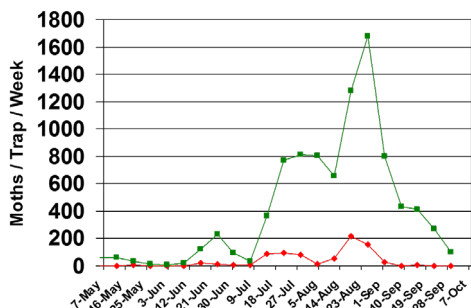
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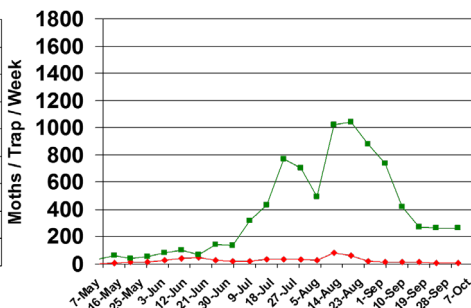
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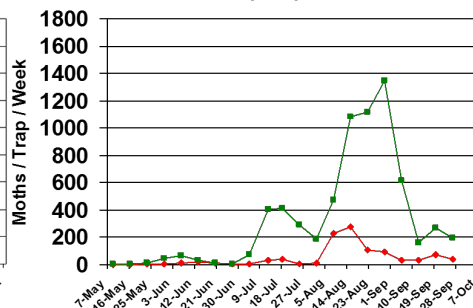
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010



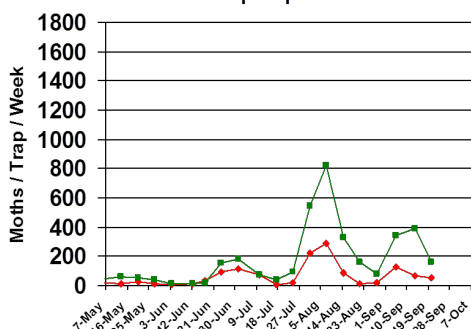
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2011



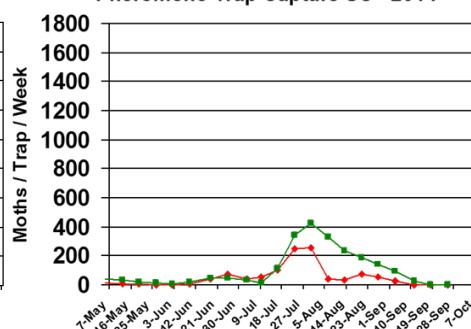
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2012



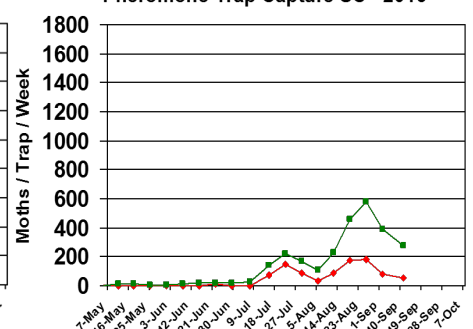
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2013



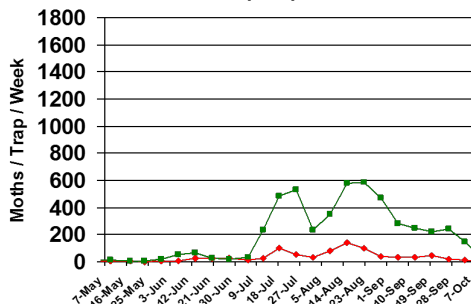
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2014



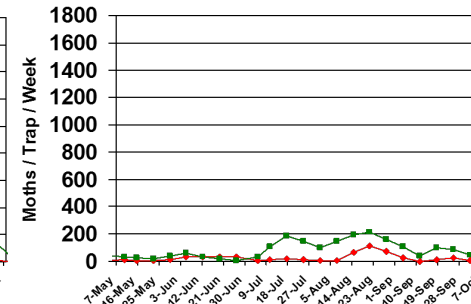
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2015



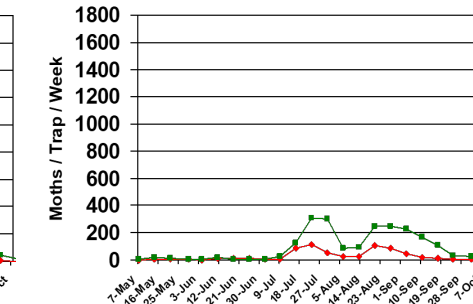
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2016



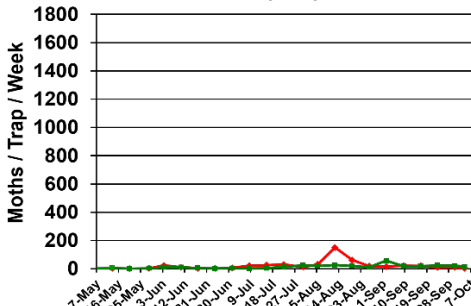
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2017



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2018



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2019



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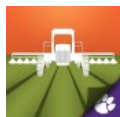


### **Pest Management Handbook – 2021**

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2021 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html>

### **Free Mobile Apps: “Calibrate My Sprayer” and “Mix My Sprayer”**



Download our free mobile apps called “Calibrate My Sprayer” and “Mix My Sprayer” that help check for proper calibration of spraying equipment and help you with mixing user-defined pesticides, respectively, in custom units (available in both iOS and Android formats):

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/>

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For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.  
Professor of Entomology



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